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# ***Raising the Dairy Calf When Whole Milk Is Sold***

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**T**WO general plans have been developed at University Farm for raising calves when skim-milk is not available. Either will grow good calves if the plan is carefully followed. The plans are: First, raising calves on a minimum amount of milk, using either whole milk entirely or whole milk and skim-milk during a part of the milk feeding period. Second, using whole milk for a short time and then some form of dried milk.

### **The First Plan, Using Skim-milk**

The first plan is about the same as the usual plan of skim-milk feeding, except that the milk is fed for only about 70 days instead of 180 to 200 days.

If the calf is not strong, leave it with its mother for three days. Otherwise take it away any time after the first nursing.

Feed whole milk fresh from the cow for two weeks. Then change to skim-milk. Substitute a pound a day until the change is complete.

Feed not more than one pound of milk for 8 or 10 pounds live weight at any time.

Start hay and grain feeding as soon as possible. Cracked corn or crushed oats or a mixture of the two is best at the beginning.

After the first few weeks, change the grain ration to a mixture of 400 pounds of cornmeal, 100 pounds of wheat bran, and 100 pounds of lin-seed oilmeal. Feed the grain dry.

At all times, feed all of the good alfalfa or clover hay the calves will clean up. Also, when

it is possible, get the calves out of doors in direct sunshine a few hours every day.

Calves fed according to this method may be weaned when about 70 days old, if they are thrifty and are consuming considerable amounts of hay and grain. If the calves are unusually vigorous they may be weaned a week or two earlier.

Wean the young calf gradually, by taking away a pound a day of the milk. Calves should have up to five pounds of grain a day by the time they are six months old. It is not necessary or desirable to feed more than that amount at any time.

This plan will require about 200 pounds of whole milk and 600 pounds of skimmilk, in addition to the hay and grain. Whole milk may be fed during the whole period, but a calf fed whole milk for the whole period will be no better than one fed skimmilk a part of the period.

### **Second Plan, Using No Skimmilk**

The calf, under the second plan, is fed for the first two weeks as in the first plan.

In place of the skimmilk one of the skimmilk or buttermilk concentrates is used. This may be skimmilk powder or buttermilk powder. When mixed with water these powders make either skimmilk or buttermilk as the case may be.

Mix one pound of powder with nine pounds of water. The powder mixes better if it is first mixed with a small amount of water to form a thick paste. It should be mixed fresh at each feeding.

The calf is fed in exactly the same way as with skimmilk, except that a little more care is needed

in getting it on to the powdered milk ration. This is especially true of the buttermilk powder, as it is acid and tends to loosen the bowels. If the change is made slowly, however, this looseness need have no effect on the vigor of the calf.

Calves fed on skimmilk or buttermilk powder can also be weaned at from 70 to 80 days if they are eating grain and hay well.

Either of the plans described will raise calves that will be equal to regular skimmilk-fed calves a year old.

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